

HB 5521: AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSURE OF MASTER'S LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am a licensed psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing you in strong opposition to the proposal HB 5521, for the following reasons:

- 1) The term “psychologist” has been reserved for doctoral level providers (both in Connecticut and on a national level) and should continue to be the designation specifically reflecting doctoral level education, training and associated competencies and expertise.
- 2) Allowing licensure of master's level psychologists would create public confusion regarding provider education and training; The competencies that are assumed under the psychologist license cannot be achieved within the significantly shorter number of years, course credits and clinical training that is required for a masters degree.
- 3) Master's level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as “Licensed Professional Counselors” (LPC's).
- 4) School psychologists are master's level, but they only operate in the school systems and are under the authority of the Department of Education.

For each of these reasons, I am urging you to oppose HB 5521.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elisabeth Cannata, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist